

COMMEMORATING THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 ethnic Azerbaijani civilians who were killed during the massacre at Khojaly, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, on February 25–26, 1992. According to Human Rights Watch, Memorial Human Rights Center, and other international observers, the Khojaly tragedy was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the assistance of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. At the time, the massacre at Khojaly was described by Human Rights Watch as “the largest massacre to date in the conflict” over Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. Largely condemned by the international community, in 2001 at least 30 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe stated in Written Declaration No. 324 that the “Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town.” Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the town and people of Khojaly who died on those fateful days and in offering our deepest condolences to Azerbaijan on this tragic anniversary.

HONORING MR. JOHN EMERSON

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both a colleague and friend—Mr. John Emerson—who is retiring from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration after 30 years of Federal service.

John began his career in public service as a volunteer fireman on Long Island. He then worked as a Border Patrol Agent for the Immigration and Naturalization Service where he protected our borders from illegal immigration and drug smugglers.

He joined the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1984. He worked in New York, Los Angeles, Bolivia, and Virginia before being named the Assistant Special Agent in Charge for North Carolina. In all of these posts, he was instrumental in successfully fighting drug trafficking.

The work that John has done to combat illegal drugs in our state is immense. For example, under his leadership and tireless work with local law enforcement, over 70 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were discovered in Western North Carolina. Since then, lab seizures in Western North Carolina have dropped by over fifty percent.

He was also a vital proponent of having our area labeled as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Under this designation, our local and state law enforcement agencies will have access to the resources they need in order to fight drug trafficking in our state.

As a mayor of Charlotte, I've seen firsthand the negative effect that drug dealers and drug trafficking can have on a community. John has

spent his life going after dangerous drug smugglers in order to keep communities across the globe safe. His work cannot be understated—his career is one that has truly made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Mr. John Emerson's service to his country today, and I'm proud to say that our area is a safer one because of his work.

HONORING ELI JAMES COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eli James Cooper. Eli is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eli has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eli has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Eli has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eli James Cooper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RICHARD “DICK” ALLEN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Board of Education Member and former President, Richard “Dick” Allen and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Allen's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the students, parents, staff and communities of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, MDUSD, and I am grateful to him for his service to my constituents.

For the past 55 years, Mr. Allen has been an excellent teacher, mentor, respected collaborator, student advocate, leader and school board member. He has no doubt nurtured hundreds of students as they developed their skills to become productive leaders and citizens.

Mr. Allen's dedication is evidenced in the Dick Allen Award which was named in his honor. This award was established in 2006 to recognize someone or a group of people who have contributed above and beyond to the alternative education students and programs of alternative high schools in MDUSD. The first award was presented to Mr. Allen as he was the original administrator of alternative education programs in the MDUSD and a strong supporter of alternative education in general.

This is just one small example of his remarkable leadership and dedication to excellence in education.

As Mr. Allen retires, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank him publicly for his service. Our children, their families, and our entire community have benefitted immensely from his work. His is a lasting legacy and I join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating him on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. FLOREINE MENTEL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fine public servant, a community leader and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Floreine Mentel, on the occasion of her retirement.

Floreine M. Mentel is retiring from a teaching career of 50 years, including her most recent service as a Monroe County Adult Education and a G.E.D. examiner. Floreine has dedicated her life to service, both for the people she taught and the community she lives in. She has set a tremendous example for her community and proven without any doubt that one person's involvement does make a difference. For 14 years she served as a Monroe County Commissioner, helping to lead the County with wisdom, and intelligence and passion. In addition to this public service, Floreine has given her time and talents to numerous groups such as the Monroe County 4-H; the Area Agency on Aging 1-B; the Monroe Women's Center; the Monroe County Historical Society and many others. She was especially instrumental in helping to build the necessary community support for the new River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

I wish Floreine and Bill, her husband of more than 50 years, many more years of happiness together and enjoyment in retirement. Floreine is a remarkable public servant, a dedicated community member and an incredibly wonderful human being.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on January 26, 2011 and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: Rollcall No. 22, “no”; Rollcall No. 23, “yes”; Rollcall No. 24, “yes”; Rollcall No. 25, “no”.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the